

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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2007 ANNUAL REPORT OF STATE JUDICIARY RELEASED TODAY

LANSING, MI, March 31, 2008 – The Michigan Supreme Court received more filings and disposed of more cases in 2007 than in any of the previous four years, according to the Michigan Supreme Court’s annual report released today.

The Michigan Supreme Court, which saw a five-year high of 2,612 filings in 2007, disposed of 2,625. The Michigan Court of Appeals, with 7,590 new filings, had 7,543 case dispositions for a near-100 percent clearance rate.

Circuit courts enjoyed a slightly better than 100 percent clearance rate. District courts had a disposition rate of 99.1 percent, despite a significant increase in civil case filings. Probate courts, which can maintain oversight of some cases for years, had a clearance rate of 97.3 percent.

Charts showing caseload trends and maps of court districts are featured in the report, as are discussions of each court’s function. Statistics break down many case filings and dispositions by type. Additional, detailed statistical supplements are available at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/summaries.htm#statsupp>.

The report also includes highlights of judicial branch activities, such as child support collection; the report notes that Michigan ranked sixth nationally in child support distribution – and fourth in collecting past-due child support – in Fiscal Year 2006. Other featured initiatives include judicial branch technology, court collections, oversight of children in foster care, public education projects, and Michigan Adoption Day, which was in 2007 the largest such event in the country.

Also addressed in the report are budget issues, including a discussion of Fiscal Year 2007, in which the judicial branch operating budget was cut by \$3.3 million from the originally enacted appropriation.

Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor said that the Court’s annual report “is an essential resource for anyone who wants to know more about the work of our state courts and the issues facing the Michigan judicial branch.”

The report is available on the “One Court of Justice” web site at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/statistics/2007/2007execsum.pdf>.